



The British School

Brian Platts
Principal

P.O. Box 566, Jhamsikhel, Patan
Kathmandu, Nepal

Friday 14th May, 2021

Dear Parents,

Update on our return to campus.

Due to the latest news of the extension of the Prohibitory Order until the 27th May, the closure of the airport until the 31st May, and following the continued increased rise in numbers of COVID in the country, we have **reluctantly taken the decision to remain in Phase 4 of Online Continuous Learning until the end of this academic year, Friday 2nd July** .

This decision was not taken lightly and it is certainly not the modality of learning that any of us expected or wanted, especially after working so hard to get back to Phase 2 of on campus learning. However, considering the current circumstances in Nepal, we strongly believe this is the right decision in terms of the safety, health and wellbeing of your children and our staff. It will also allow us to plan and deliver the best educational provision possible for the remainder of the academic year, whilst planning for the start of the new school year, commencing Monday, 16th August. I hope this clarity will also be useful for families who need to make informed decisions over the next couple of months.

If the situation changes dramatically over the next couple of weeks, and we meet the criteria/conditions for a phased return to campus, we will look at how we can offer elements of Phase 3.5 provision before the 2nd July.

A reminder of the phases and the criteria/conditions can be found below:

Phases

4. Online Continuous Learning
- 3.5 Targeted partial return to campus (for specific year groups and the introduction of games/PE lessons)
3. Partial Return to Campus (inc. rotations and restrictions to some elements of provision)
2. Return to Campus (re-introduction of more elements)
1. Full Return to Campus

Criteria/Conditions for a return to campus

1. Nepal Government permits it with guidance on social distancing rules.
2. Rate of infection decreases to 'manageable levels' in Nepal (in the absence of a credible R0 number).

Patron: H.E.The British Ambassador

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3. Clear TBS safety (social distancing) guidelines for campus agreed and understood by staff, students and parents.
4. The campus is sanitised, ready and safe.
5. Evidence that social distancing rules are effective in other schools and are not causing an increased risk to all stakeholders.
6. Campus provision (under the new guidelines and restrictions) is equal or better than what is being provided online

For those families that are finding it difficult to finance the cost of school fees because of the ongoing situation, please do contact our Finance Department, who will outline how the school can assist, which includes staggered and deferred payments, along with our Bursary Scheme, which has been extended for applications until Friday 28th May.

We are very conscious of the enormous strain the current situation is placing on families; this came through very clearly on the parent surveys, through individual conversations and the continual stream of desperate news we are seeing and reading. Concerns over mental health and wellbeing are especially apparent and prevalent. We are looking at further ways that we can support you and your children. We will run wellbeing sessions for parents over the next couple weeks, where guidance can be provided, strategies can be shared and a forum can be provided for mutual support. The first one will take place next Wednesday 19th May from 3:30pm - 4:00pm for parents of students in Year 8 and 9.

It is so very important over the coming weeks and months that we continue to support each other and keep open channels of communication so that we can achieve this and respond quickly and appropriately to our changing circumstances. I am confident, due to the strength of our community, that we will be able to achieve this and ultimately continue to provide a first class education and provision of care for your children.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Brian Platts
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